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14 July 1969

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT: Inquiry from Senator Stuart Symington (D., Mo.) re Signal Intelligence Activities in [ ]**

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25X6 [ ] 1. I met with Bill Woodruff today regarding Senator Symington's letter of 1 July 1969 to the Director. This letter was signed by the Senator in his capacity as Chairman of the Subcommittee on United States Security Agreements and Commitments Abroad of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It requested answers to ten separate questions concerning signal intelligence activities in [ ]. I showed Woodruff copies of this letter and the blind memorandum responding to them.

2. Woodruff had no great difficulty with the substance involved but was concerned about the jurisdictional aspects of the situation. We discussed several alternative methods:

a. One was to provide the answers to the CIA Subcommittee and so inform Senator Symington;

b. A second was for the Director to suggest to the Senator that he (the Director) provide this information at the next meeting of the CIA Subcommittee;

c. A third was for the Director to talk with Senator Symington pointing out the jurisdictional problems while providing the answers to his questions in the form of a verbal response.

Mr. Woodruff feels that any one of these three alternatives is acceptable.

3. I asked Woodruff what he thought of the Director's taking this up with Senator Russell. He had no problem with this but wondered if it warranted a special meeting with the Senator. Woodruff is definitely opposed to giving Senator Symington any written response. He referred

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to Senator Fulbright's inquiry on the number of personnel in [ ] which the Director handled orally with Senator Fulbright. Woodruff felt that writing to Symington would set a bad precedent since we had declined to respond to the Chairman of the full Committee in writing and it would put us in an awkward position if we were to receive a written request from the chairman of any other congressional subcommittees. It would seem that the best solution would be the verbal briefing by the Director, pointing out to Senator Symington the problems involved in a written response. If this is not acceptable to the Senator, the Director could then take the matter up with Senator Russell.

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4. It is interesting that, in discussing the second alternative, Woodruff said he did not want to speculate as to when Senator Russell would call another meeting of the CIA Subcommittee in view of his irritation with [ ]

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[ ] At that time Russell made a private comment that if he could not trust the members of his own Subcommittee with sensitive information he would not have any more CIA Subcommittee meetings.

5. Woodruff felt that DOD's response to a similar request from Senator Symington need not necessarily be in the same form. He feels that CIA is in a unique position and has a separate Subcommittee to which it is responsible. At the same time, Woodruff did not seem to object to the prospect of Mr. Helms responding on behalf of all parties in view of the subject matter involved.

[ ]  
Deputy Legislative Counsel

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